

City of Morgan Hill Community Aquatics Forum
"A New Way of Thinking"
7:00PM February 5, 2009

Meeting Notes:

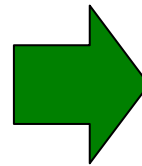
Recreation and Community Services Director Steve Rymer outlined the format of the discussion as an open conversation where the public can talk and the staff would listen. The purpose of the meeting was threefold:

1. Start a dialogue with the aquatics community.
2. Identify opportunities to enhance Morgan Hill's community aquatics' programs.
3. Listen to each others' ideas and opinions.

The meeting was the first step in a decision making process that will utilize community engagement:

**Problem /
Opportunity
defined**

Decision made



Implement !!!

**Shared planning and
solution choice**

The meeting took public comments in three areas:

Values

- Swimming is a great way to exercise
- Family Activity
- Swimming is a lifetime activity
- Quality of Life: The Aquatics Center raises the stature of the community
- Keeps the tax base (citizens) healthy
- Develops Youth
- The facilities help attract people to Morgan Hill
- Economic Development: Swim meets and events attract people to Morgan Hill
- Water Safety Skills
- Facilities are accessible to many. Activities cross lots of socioeconomic backgrounds.
- The Aquatics Center is a high level training facility
- The facilities and programs "Build Community"
- The groups should serve the children

Today:

What is currently working?

- Staff is attentive to people's needs
- Having the facility open year round is good
- The competition pool temperature is just right
- The morning lifeguards do a great job
- The Aqua fitness classes are great
- The 5am opening time works well
- The pool is one of the best in the region, good water quality, comp pool is fast, it is beautiful
- We have good equipment
- Membership for both facilities is good.
- Improved communication on closures has occurred.

What could be improved on?

- Scheduling
 - o We need more lap swim time, more lanes available, more open days
 - o Lap Swim 9am-11am
 - o Recreation swim should go later
- Pool Temperature
 - o The competition pool temperature needs to be warmer.
 - o The CRC is not good for swimmers because of all the mixed use and warm water temperature
 - o The CRC Pool is too cold for water aqua fitness
- Facility
 - o The AC changing room is too crowded
 - o Need more deck space. The grass around the competition pool does not work.
 - o Grass Volleyball Court
- Swim Team - needs improvement
- Structured "Real" Masters Program (we need one)
 - o Allow extended hours for Masters
- There has been confusion on the tri team registration process.
- People need to get used to swimming with others and share lanes as use increases.
- There has been front desk confusion on tri team registration at the CRC and AC
- Lifeguard attentiveness during lunchtime hours
- Need more aquafitness programs
 - o Evening hours for swim team parents
 - o More Special Hours Aquafitness classes
- There are too many swimmers going outside Morgan Hill for swimming
- There needs to be a connection between the school district and the City
- Inter-agency cooperation is needed
- Community groups need more cohesion
- Locker Room Issues
 - o The floor is too slippery
 - o More benches needed
 - o Shower water needs to be warmer
 - o Hooks in women's locker room
- It took too long to replace aquafitness equipment
- Long Course is needed more
- Fee for pool use only

Tomorrow

- Reformation of the Morgan Hill Aquatics Center and Friends of Aquatics Center is underway
- Pacific masters may be able to help with funds to promote diversity and youth use of facilities.
- Look for revenue enhancement opportunities: Scuba lessons, free diving, kayak lessons, tri athlete club, synchronized swimming, lifesaving instruction, casting practice, diving lessons, physical therapy.
- Sell goggles at the CRC.
- Get Youth into the Process
- Corporate sponsorship (Santa Barbara does this)

- Swim Team
 - o A Recreational based swim team is needed to build a broad user group
 - o Find a way to stop the swim team feuding.
 - o City involvement in swim team management hiring process
 - o Hiring process with all stakeholders involved
 - o Might be a good thing if swim team is run publicly
 - o More public/less private team
- Heal past politics by trying something different, City run team, inclusive hiring process
- Find a way to capitalize financially on high school athletes wanting to participate year round.
- A learn to swim program could work well with the swim team.
- A more comprehensive overall aquatics program, coordinating all elements
- More Membership options
- Extending Lap Swim hours
- Utilize a punch pass system
- Explore partnership opportunities
- New programs need to be given time to grow and marketed well
- Community awareness of offerings needs to happen
- Improve rec guide information so swimming hours are easier to find.
- Enhance AC website and marketing efforts
- Corporate memberships
- Take the time to look at models that function well in other communities (Mt. View, Pleasanton, Santa Barbara).
- Change fee structure so that a 6 month (May-Sept) or year membership are priced separately.
- Operate part of the time using volunteers (look at how state park cooperative association works).
- Look at the overall schedule.

During the meeting several other locations were identified with aquatics programs that others felt were successful. Links to the websites for these agencies are listed below:

- <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation/aquatics.html>
- <http://www.clubswim.com/swim-teams-results.asp?Country=US&State=CA&County=San+Diego&swimclubs=1>

Next Steps:

The Recreation and Community Services Staff will be meeting to review all the collected comments and working to develop a process to keep this community engagement process moving. It is likely that a group or committee with a variety of aquatics interests will be brought together to keep us moving forward. Staff will be in contact with everyone in attendance via email to update everyone on these next steps. If you have any question please contact Chris Ghione at chris.ghione@mhcr.com or (408) 782-2128 x801.